

In the Claims

Please replace the originally filed claims with the claims below.

1. (currently amended) A method for cultivating microorganisms of the order *Thraustochytriales*, wherein the microorganisms are cultivated in a fermentation medium characterized in that the sum of the weight fractions of sodium and chloride ions is less than 1.75 g/L and that, with the total salt content of the fermentation medium is being less than 3.5 g/L of total salts, and wherein during cultivation the microorganisms bring forth a production of more than 10 wt% DHA per dry biomass, ~~and wherein the fermentation medium contains no added sodium salts or chlorine salt.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein up to 3 g/L CaCO₃ are added to the fermentation medium prior to and/or during cultivation.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the microorganisms bring forth a production of more than 14% DHA per dry biomass.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the microorganisms bring forth a production of more than 5 % DPA per dry biomass.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized by the use of a ~~low-salt~~ fermentation medium, the total salt content of which is in the range < 8 % of the salt content of sea water.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the total sodium content of the ~~low-salt~~ fermentation medium is less than 150 mg/L.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the total chloride content of the ~~low-salt~~ fermentation medium is less than 250 mg/L.

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the ~~low-salt~~ fermentation medium comprises glucose, yeast extract, magnesium sulfate, calcium carbonate and potassium phosphate.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the ~~low-salt~~ fermentation medium comprises glucose, corn steep liquor, magnesium sulfate, calcium carbonate and potassium phosphate.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 10, characterized in that the ~~low-salt~~ fermentation medium comprises magnesium sulfate, calcium carbonate and potassium phosphate at less than 3 g/L each.

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the ~~low-salt~~ fermentation medium has a pH value of between 3 and 10.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the cultivation takes place between 10°C and 40°C.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the cultivation takes place for 1 to 10 days.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the microorganism belongs to the genus *Schizochytrium*, *Thraustochytrium* or *Ulkenia*.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the microorganism is *Ulkenia* sp. SAM 2179.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the microorganism is *Schizochytrium* sp. SR 21.

19. (withdrawn) Oil having a content of at least 10 % DHA, produced using a method according to claim 1 and subsequent isolation of the oil from the culture broth and/or the biomass available therein.

20. (withdrawn) Oil having a content of at least 5 % DHA, produced using a method according to claim 1 and subsequent isolation of the oil from the culture broth and/or the biomass available therein.

21. (withdrawn) DHA of at least 90 % purity, produced using a method according to claim 1 and subsequent isolation of the DHA from the culture broth and/or the biomass available therein.

22. (withdrawn) DPA of at least 90 % purity, produced using a method according to claim 1 and subsequent isolation of the DPA from the culture broth and/or the biomass available therein.

23. (withdrawn) Biomass obtainable by means of a method according to claim 1 and subsequent separation of the biomass from the culture broth.

24. (withdrawn) Animal feed comprising biomass according to claim 23.

25. (withdrawn) Foodstuff for human nutrition comprising biomass according to claim 23.